

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide-sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or a complement thereof.
2. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% nucleotide identity with at least 700 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% nucleotide identity with SEQ ID NO:1 over its full length, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site.
7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1, 5, 51, 52, and 58.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 8, which is an expression vector.

10. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 9.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 10 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

13.-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of ~~any one of claim 4~~ claims 4, 5, 51, and 52, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: ~~induction~~ inducing of IFN- γ production in CD4⁺ cells, ~~inducing~~ of Th1-associated cytokine production, inhibiting production of IL-2, and ~~initiation of Th1 cell differentiation~~ differentiating of Thp cells and Th2 cells into Th1 cells.

51. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a consensus T-box site in DNA.

54. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1, 5, 51, and 52~~, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

55. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a fragment of at least 700 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1, 5, 51, and 58~~, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.

58. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 700 nucleotides which is complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising a

constitutive promotor.

62. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising an inducible promotor.

63. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.

64. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 50, wherein the Th1-associated cytokine is selected from the group consisting of IFN γ , IL-2, TNF, and Lymphotoxin.

65. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of ~~any one of claim 4 or 6~~ claims 4-7, wherein the identity is determined by the BLAST program using the default Blastn matrix.

66. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

67. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 51 or 58 .

68. (New) The vector of claim 66, which is an expression vector.

69. (New) A host cell containing the vector of claim 68.

70. (New) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 69 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

72. (New) The vector of claim 67, which is an expression vector.

73. (New) A host cell containing the vector of claim 72.

74. (New) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 73 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

76. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

77. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 51 further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

78. (New) The expression vector of claim 66, comprising a constitutive promotor.

79. (New) The expression vector of claim 66, comprising an inducible promotor.

80. (New) The expression vector of claim 66, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.

81. (New) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising a constitutive promotor.
82. (New) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising an inducible promotor.
83. (New) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.
84. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 51, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: inducing IFN- γ production in CD4+ cells, inducing Th1-associated cytokine production, inhibiting production of IL-2, and differentiating Thp cells and Th2 cells into Th1 cells.
85. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.
86. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 51 or 58, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.